



A group of local youth at a water quality sampling location.

Award Amount
\$771,000

Watershed
Yosemite Creek/Slough/South Basin Watershed

County
San Francisco County

CALFED Region
Bay Region

Legislative Districts
US Congress: 12
State Assembly: 12
State Senate: 8

Purpose

Conduct an assessment for the Yosemite Watershed to serve as a model for other urban watersheds.

Project Goals

- Identify and address conditions that have an impact on water quality in the Yosemite Creek/Slough/South Basin.
- Improve water quality for the Bayview—Hunter's Point community and the portion of the San Francisco Bay Delta affected by Yosemite Slough.
- Improve access to restored habitats and natural areas in the Bayview—Hunters Point community.

Benefits to the CALFED Program

This project may serve as a model for other urban communities to conduct watershed assessments, particularly in those communities with environmental justice issues. Environmental justice means that all people, regardless of race, culture, national origin, or income, are able to enjoy equal environmental protection and to benefit from environmental improvements. The CALFED Program is committed to addressing environmental justice challenges related to the management of water in the Bay-Delta. By integrating environmental justice into this community-based watershed assessment, this project is helping the CALFED Program achieve this commitment as well as its watershed health goals.

Project Overview

Yosemite Creek/Slough/South Basin is located in the heavily urbanized Bayview-Hunters Point community in the City and County of San Francisco. Bayview-Hunters Point is a low-income community largely comprising people of color. Cumulative air, land, and water pollution affect the community; it has some of the highest rates of breast and cervical cancer, asthma, and respiratory illnesses in California. The watershed has experienced significant loss of ecological function and habitat for aquatic and avian species and presents a health hazard for those who use it for recreation and subsistence. To date, the land use planning and development processes in the Bayview-Hunters Point have not included any watershed-level analysis or management approach.

In the first phase of a long-term effort to restore this urban watershed, this project conducts a community-based watershed assessment aimed at identifying the water quality impacts on, and ecological conditions of, Yosemite Creek/Slough. It includes:

- community skills training, education, capacity-building, and technical assistance targeted to youth, seniors, and unemployed/underemployed local residents, landowners, and organizations;
- community-based watershed planning process to design a restoration and management plan for the watershed;
- gathering of baseline watershed data to inform ongoing redevelopment plans;
- examination of the impact of sewage treatment plant outflow and the effectiveness of urban water quality best management practices;
- identification of the extent of impervious surfaces that increase non-point source pollution runoff;
- and evaluation of the opportunities for restoration of surrounding wetlands.



The Yosemite Creek inlet.

Contact Information

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